

Ohio Beetles Bulletin

Occasional Publication of the Ohio Coleopterists

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Aegomorphus quadrigibbus (Say) 12mm

The Ohio Beetles Bulletin (OBB) was developed to provide the Ohio Coleopterists membership a means of communication between issues of the Ohio Coleopterists Newsletter. Prior methods of communication via e-mail messages lacked the substance and sophistication the OC membership deserves. It is hoped the OBB will fill this void and provide an informative and enjoyable means of sharing information on the fascinating world of Beetles.

“When we have experienced the atavistic joy of collecting in the open air and the manipulative pleasure of setting and mounting our chosen beetles there follows the refined intellectual delight of naming them with precision”.

Quote by G.B. Walsh taken from the first edition of A Coleopterists Handbook. W.J.B. Crotch, General Editor London, December 1953.

Cover Photo: *Aegomorphus quadrigibbus* (Say). Cerambycidae, Subfamily: Lamiinae. 01-July-2007, Ross Co. Ohio K.D. Karns

OHIO COLEOPTERISTS

2010 Annual Business Meeting and Get Together

The Ohio Coleopterists annual business meeting and “get together” will be held at Ken and Cathy Karns home and museum. The agenda will include the annual meeting and election of officers for 2011, a tour of the museum facilities (see photos), beetle determination and discussion session, and an early afternoon barbecue. Bring your own food to grill and the hosts will provide the rest. Here’s the details:

Date: Saturday, 09-October-2010

Time: 9:00 am with the business meeting at 10:00 am. The grill will be started at around noon and lunch about 1:00 pm.

Place: Ken & Cathy Karns. 1637 Sheridan Drive
Lancaster, OH. 43130

Contact: Ken Cell: 740-215-4305
Home: 740-653-7510

Please RSVP if you plan to attend no later than Thursday the 7th.



Portion of the Ken Karns Coleoptera Collection



Extensive Invertebrate Fossil Collection

OSU vs INDIANA
WILL BE ON THE BIG SCREEN !
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

Notes and Observations

Species of the Genus *Hesperus* Fauvel 1874

Staphylinidae

Subfamily: Staphylininae

Despite being mid June, there was a nip to the early morning air as I pulled into my usual parking spot along the forest road. Riley, my 4 year old shepherd, commenced her normal “policing the area” despite being there many times before. I quickly set about fixing breakfast consisting off scrabbled eggs mixed with ham chunks and a cup of coffee all on a small camp stove on the tailgate of my truck. A folding lawn chair was strategically placed with a great view of the open forest and my well thumbed copy of A Coleopterist's Handbook was cracked open. Ya know Riley.... it doesn't get much better than this.....

The genus *Hesperus* consists of rather large and conspicuous species typical of the subfamily Staphylininae. Ian Moore described two new species in his 1958 paper; The North American Species of *Hesperus* Fauvel, With Descriptions of Two New Species published in the Transactions of the San Diego Society of Natural History, October 16, 1958. In his paper, Moore described *Hesperus arizonicus* and *Hesperus stehri* together with descriptions of the two previously known north american species; *Hesperus baltimorensis* (Gravenhorst) and *Hesperus apicalis* (Say), bringing the known North American (north of Mexico) fauna to four species. It is worth mentioning that the two new species descriptions (*H. arizonicus* and *H. stehri*) were based on only a single specimen of each, such was the rarity of these insects.

After breakfast and a second cup of coffee the nip in the air was giving way to the heat of the late morning as I packed up my gear and headed off to check some Lindgren Funnel traps I had set baited with Ethanol slow release lure. Ethanol is a good general lure for beetles attracted to dead and/or dying hardwoods. The first few traps yielded, among a good assortment of other beetles, several specimens of a seldom collected, but not uncommon, Staphylinidae *Hesperus apicalis* (Say). The fourth trap I checked produced two Staph specimens that at first blush appeared to be just two very large *H. apicalis*. Closer examination, and a run through Moore's key to the North American species of *Hesperus*, reveled these guys were in fact *Hesperus stehri*.

When Moore described *H. stehri* in 1958, he had just a single specimen collected at Ash Cave Hocking County, Ohio by Dr. William C. Stehr on May 5, 1934. Moore describes *H. stehri* as “colored like *H. apicalis* but is larger, with a wider head, differently shaped pronotum, relatively wider elytra, and narrower abdomen. It is very distinctive in the close set punctures of the head and the lack of ground sculpture of the head and pronotum.” Both *H. apicalis* and *H. stehri* are mostly all black and have the terminal abdominal segments reddish in color (Figures 1 & 2). My observations reflect the most readily observed features to separate the two, particularly with large *H. apicalis* and small *H. stehri*, are the close set and dense punctures on the head of *H. stehri* and the differently shaped pronotum. Most *H. stehri* I have collected present as a larger more robust insect than those of *H. apicalis*.



(Figure 1) *Hesperus apicalis* (Say)
11-18 June-2010, Ross County, Ohio
K.D. Karns. Specimen 12 mm



(Figure 2) *Hesperus stehri* Moore
11-18 June-2010, Ross County, Ohio
K.D. Karns. Specimen 16 mm

Although Moore lists only four species of *Hesperus* occurring in North America (north of Mexico), the authors of the Staphylinidae section (section 22) of Arnett's American Beetles lists six species. The authors cite a revision of the genus by Smetana (1995) which may reveal the two additional species to Moore's original revision (1958). I am in the process of acquiring Smetana's revision and will report back on my findings. The authors also describe a bit of the biology as "at least two common species are associated with old trees (especially tree holes) or decaying logs." This may in part explain the attraction to the ethanol lure. Robert D. Waltz describes the collection of both *H. apicalis* and *H. stehri* in Lindgren Funnel traps baited with alpha pinene and triple lure in southern Indiana (Waltz, 2002).

To round out the species occurring in the Northeast, there is the distinctly marked *Hesperus baltimorensis* (Gravenhorst) (figure 3). This species can be separated by color alone with the elytra and abdomen all reddish in color and the pronotum and head black. This is the only NE species of the genus that I have collected in the traditional Staphylininae habitat such as under bark of dead logs, under dead logs and in pitt-fall traps.

The fourth species; *Hesperus arizonicus* Moore (figure 4) was described by Moore from a single specimen collected at Patagonia, Arizona, on January 4, 1938, by Dr. E.C. Van Dyke. This exceedingly rare insect was collected by the author at Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains of Southern Arizona 24-July-2000 at UV/MV lights. This specimen apparently is one of only a handful of known specimens (T. Eldredge pers. comm.)



(Figure 3.) *Hesperus baltimorensis* (Gravenhorst)
21-June-2009, Ross County, Ohio. K.D. Karns
Specimen 13 mm



(Figure 4.) *Hesperus arizonicus* Moore
24-July-2000, Pima County, AZ.
K.D. Karns, R.A. Androw. Specimen 12 mm

After checking the remaining Lindgren Traps, I headed down to a small second order stream to look for a rather uncommon Carabid, *Acupalpus alternans* (LeConte) that I had collected the year before from under small rocks and gravel on the various elevated bars along the creek. In addition to a small series of the *Acupalpus*, I collected a good series of a Pselaphinae and an assortment of other Staphs and misc Bembidion species. Beating vegetation along the creek turned up a few nice things including the rather uncommon Melandryidae, *Spilotus quadripustulatus* (Melsheimer). A perfect ending for a great day in the field.

Special thanks to the following for determinations of specimens:

A. Newton *Hesperus apicalis*, *Hesperus baltimorensis*, *Hesperus arizonicus*
R. Davidson *Acupalpus alternans*
D. Pollock *Spilotus quadripustulatus*